

Through collaboration with the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, AKA hosted a health forum in Jackson, MS, as part of the 98th National Founders Day Weekend. Additional activities included health fairs in Jackson and the Mississippi Delta, a special salute to AKA members affected by Hurricane Katrina, and an African-American Heritage tour.

I applaud the accomplishments of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and recognize the 98th National Founders Day Weekend as the first national AKA meeting in Mississippi.●

TRIBUTE TO SISTER DOROTHY STANG

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Stang, who was brutally murdered nearly a year ago on February 12, 2005. Two hired assassins shot and killed her while she was traveling to visit a remote rural settlement near the Trans-Amazon Highway. She was 73 years old.

In May 2005, I introduced a resolution here in the Senate to honor Sister Dorothy—known as Dot to family and friends—for devoting her life to the cause of justice for the dispossessed in Brazil. Refusing to back down in the face of death threats from those who opposed her efforts, she doggedly continued assisting impoverished families and worked to protect the rain forest. Her life exemplifies the highest ideals of reverence for human dignity, compassion for those who lack a voice in their own society, and respect for nature.

Born in Dayton, OH, Dot was one of nine children. While she was growing up, she expressed a wish to one day become a missionary. Her siblings say their sister was always a strong, adventurous woman who truly loved life.

After joining the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1948 and taking her final vows in 1956, Sister Dorothy taught elementary classes at St. Victor School in Calumet City and St. Alexander School in Villa Park in Illinois and Most Holy Trinity School in Arizona. She began working in Brazil in 1966, and in the early 1980s, she moved to a rural area 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. There, she worked with the Catholic Church's Pastoral Land Commission, an organization that seeks to eradicate poverty and protect the environment by helping impoverished Brazilians to secure land.

Sister Dorothy's passionate commitment to this mission was an inspiration to many. She was known for riding a motorcycle and camping outside the offices of local officials when they refused to meet with her. She lived her lifelong passion for teaching by organizing peasant groups and educating hundreds of families about sustainable farming techniques, land tenure issues, and the importance of con-

servation. Her extensive knowledge of Brazilian law, which was entirely self-taught, won her great respect from locals and other activists.

While she worked hard, she did not see her endeavors as a sacrifice. Rather, she professed a love for the region and its people, becoming a Brazilian citizen and instructing her family that she would someday like to be buried in the place about which she cared so deeply.

Last year, Sister Dorothy testified before a Brazilian congressional committee on deforestation and did not hesitate to name companies that were engaged in illegal logging. Furthermore, only days before her death, she met with Brazilian human rights officials to voice her concern about the dangers that she believed some loggers and landowners posed to the peasant farmers with whom she lived.

Although she received death threats for years, she told those around her that the Bible was the only weapon she needed. Sister Dorothy lived her commitment to her faith in the bravest of ways, demonstrating courage and determination to the end. Witnesses recall that, when the gunmen confronted her, she read to her killers from the Bible before she was murdered.

Sister Dorothy was a much beloved figure in the communities where she worked. Last year, the Brazilian state where she spent more than two decades of her life named her "Woman of the Year," and the Brazilian Bar Association honored her with its Humanitarian of the Year award. At her funeral, thousands of peasants mourned the loss of a woman whom they knew as both a determined leader and a fun-loving friend.

The Brazilian Government sent troops to stabilize the area following the tragedy, and it also has honored Sister Dorothy's legacy by setting aside disputed lands for a sustainable development program that she supported. In addition, President Lula da Silva denounced the killing and restated his government's commitment to defending Brazil's rain forests from destruction and environmentally unsound development.

Despite these positive signs, many peasants in the areas where Sister Dorothy worked remain landless; Brazil has one of the world's largest wealth gaps. Violence also continues in the region, which is widely recognized as a place where federal Government control is often tenuous. During the past two decades, hundreds in the area have died in violent clashes between poor settlers and landowners who resent government attempts to resettle landless families and prohibit illegal logging.

Sister Dorothy recognized the many daunting obstacles that face Brazil's poorest people and, rather than simply hoping for conditions to someday improve, happily devoted her life to fighting for what she believed was right. There is much to be done, but she has

set an outstanding example of how one person can make a difference in the face of hopelessness. It is up to us to keep her memory alive and never forget her determination and her commitment to helping those most in need.●

THE CLIMATE OF TRUST PROGRAM

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bay Area Council for Jewish Rescue and Renewal's Climate of Trust Program. The council's work in combating ethnic and religious hatred while strengthening tolerance and moderation in Russian society has made a great difference in the lives of all the program's participants.

In 1998, a wave of anti-Semitic activity terrorized the Jewish population in a provincial town in northwest Russia. In response, the Bay Area Council established the Climate of Trust Program, a collaborative partnership between American and Russian police officers, local officials, human rights activists, and ethnic and religious community representatives dedicated to resolving conflicts peacefully and establishing an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect in Russia.

It is fitting that the pilot program for the Climate of Trust began in one of the most diverse cities in the world, my hometown of San Francisco.

In 2000, representatives of the San Francisco Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, the California Superior Court, and the Anti-Defamation League went to Russia to join their counterparts in a seminar on religious tolerance. The participants continued the dialogue when the Russian delegates traveled to San Francisco later that year.

In total, seven of these exchanges have now taken place. During these meetings, attendees discuss a wide variety of issues including hate crime laws in the United States, how hate incidents are investigated, elements of a hate crime and its impact on the community, diversity in the police department, and community policing.

These interactions culminated in the establishment of four permanent regional tolerance centers in Russia. These centers design and implement activities that promote tolerance and effective communication between law enforcement and the community.

Organized and run by Russian police officers and community members alike, the centers sponsor hate crimes courses for police cadets to identify and handle ethnic or religious violence and produce a tolerance textbook for high school students.

From its modest beginning in 1998, the Climate of Trust has grown into a far-reaching and effective program. Thousands of Russians, from small town police officers to federal government officials, have attended Climate of Trust seminars and workshops.

The success of this program is due in no small part to the hard work of the